

Draft Resolution XIII.xx (*provisional number*)

Enhancing the Convention's implementation, visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions

1. RECALLING that Resolution XI.1, in paragraphs 17 and 18, instructs the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties to develop strategies that explore the accommodation of UN languages into the Convention, the elevation of the Convention's visibility and stature, including *inter alia* through enhancing high-level political engagement in its work at national, regional, and global levels, the enhancement of synergies with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other international entities including through regional initiatives, and the increased involvement in the initiatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
2. FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution XII.3 (2015), on *Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*, instructs the Secretariat to report annually on progress in implementing Resolution XI.6 on *Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions* to the Standing Committee;
3. NOTING that Resolution XII.3 requests the Secretary General to report at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on the opportunities for the Convention to further strengthen its contribution to the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as they relate to wetlands;
4. FURTHER NOTING that Resolution XII.3 instructs the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with IUCN World Heritage Outlook, UNEP, UNEP-GRID, UNDP, UNESCO, Regional Economic Commissions of the UN, the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and others, and report on progress to the Standing Committee and the Contracting Parties on a regular basis;
5. RECALLING that the Secretariat is also requested by Resolution XII.3 to continue its work with the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) to enhance coherence and cooperation and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related Conventions;
6. NOTING that Resolution XII.7 (2015), on *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention*, requests the Secretariat to strengthen partnerships with other MEAs such as, *inter alia*, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in order to enhance synergies and sharing of

resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation, respecting the mandate of each Convention;

7. RECALLING that Resolution XII.3 invites all Parties that are considering hosting a meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to consider including a high-level ministerial segment during the meeting addressing clearly defined topics in support of the agenda of the COP;
8. NOTING the interest of all Parties in enhancing the visibility and stature of the Ramsar Convention and increasing synergies with other MEAs and with UN Environment;
9. NOTING the project undertaken by UN Environment on “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies” and its results;
10. RECOGNIZING, in the context of the ongoing work on synergies, the importance of the linkages of the Ramsar Strategic Plan to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and any follow-up, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and the Sustainable Development Goals, and related reporting and indicators;
11. RECALLING Decision XII.30 of the CBD on the financial mechanism, which stresses the importance of enhancing programmatic synergies among relevant biodiversity-related conventions;
12. RECALLING the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) contained in *The future we want*²;
13. WELCOMING the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the outcome document *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* that recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the MEAs, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
14. CONVINCED of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to enhance coherent national level implementation of each of the conventions;
15. NOTING that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, and Target 6.6, “By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes”;
16. ALSO NOTING SDG 14, “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, and Target 14.2, “By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their

¹ [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, annex.

² http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans”;

17. ADDITIONALLY NOTING SDG 15, “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”, and Target 15.1, “By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements”;
18. FURTHER NOTING that other SDGs that are relevant to the Convention are: SDG 1. No Poverty; SDG 2. Zero Hunger; SDG 5. Gender Equality; SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities; and SDG 13. Climate Action;
19. WELCOMING CBD Decision XIII.21, on *The financial mechanism*, which “Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue and further strengthen integrated programming as a means to harness opportunities for synergy in implementing related multilateral environmental agreements as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15”;
20. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION for the cooperation between the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Ramsar Secretariat through the IUCN/Ramsar Liaison Group to support the operations of the Secretariat;
21. [APPRECIATING the results achieved by the Facilitation Working Group of the Standing Committee to facilitate discussions between the Ramsar Secretariat and IUCN, in order to seek ways of improving the current operations of the Secretariat];
22. [RECOGNIZING that inconsistencies and contradictions between resolutions and decisions taken over the years can result in confusion and a lack of clarity that creates inefficiencies in the implementation of the Convention, and that implementation of the Convention can be improved by retiring resolutions and decisions and parts thereof that are outdated or contradictory; {Text provided by the Facilitation Working Group}];
23. [RECALLING Resolution XII.4, which seeks to strengthen transparency within the work of the Convention to facilitate the evolution of decisions, guidance and implementation of the Convention in cooperation with Parties, International Organization Partners, and stakeholders; {Text provided by the Facilitation Working Group}];
24. [NOTING Parties’ interest in enhancing their efforts to identify and address the challenges to wetlands globally as a means to increase the relevance, timeliness, and impact of the Convention and of Contracting Parties’ resolutions related to wise use of wetlands; {Text provided by the Facilitation Working Group}];
25. [NOTING the value in reviewing the Rules of Procedure to identify any inconsistencies or other elements that may negatively impact the work of the Convention or which might usefully be amended to optimize resources and/or increase efficiency; {Text provided by the Facilitation Working Group}];

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Concerning visibility and stature, and increasing synergies:

26. INVITES the Secretariat, Contracting Parties, International Organization Partners and others to work to raise the visibility of the Convention at the national, subnational, regional and international levels as appropriate including some focus on the 50th birthday of the Convention on Wetlands that will be celebrated in 2021;
27. FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to establish or strengthen, at the national level, mechanisms to enhance the effective coordination among relevant national and subnational authorities, and to support mainstreaming of wetland ecosystem functions and the ecosystem services they provide to people and nature in national development plans, other sectors' strategies, plans and regulations, and especially in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the SDGs;
28. ENCOURAGES all Ramsar National Focal Points to continue to increase their efforts to coordinate with their national level counterparts as well as with institutions and agencies working to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs;
29. FURTHER ENCOURAGES National Focal Points to strengthen coordination with all wetland practitioners including Ramsar Site managers, to inform them of Ramsar activities and be informed by them about processes and issues of common interest;
30. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to continue to develop and activate networking mechanisms, including Ramsar National Wetlands Committees or similar bodies, to ensure collaboration with national ministries, departments and agencies;
31. FURTHER INVITES Parties to identify opportunities to enhance synergies at the local and regional levels, including with respect to sites with multiple international designations (e.g Ramsar Sites, Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage Sites);
32. FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to work with global and regional bodies including UN Environment, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE and other Regional Economic Commissions of the UN, ITTO, and the Global Environment Facility to enhance the wise use of wetlands;
33. INVITES Contracting Parties to continue to take into account the results of the project "Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies" through, *inter alia*, the sourcebook, undertaken by UN Environment; and ENCOURAGES the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to implement its recommendations to promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
34. REQUESTS Contracting Parties to continue to implement the *Guidelines for International Cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Resolution VII.19), including by establishing cooperative mechanisms for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins;
35. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to report regularly to the Standing Committee on progress in implementing the present Resolution and Resolution XI.6 on *Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*;

36. WELCOMES the continued collaboration between the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions through the BLG and through the implementation of joint work plans and activities of common interest and REQUESTS the Secretary General to include, in future reports on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and partnerships, information on results and achievements of existing cooperation activities and new activities with possible partners;
37. WELCOMES Decision XIII.24 on *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations* adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide inputs to the synergy process as appropriate and in particular on matters that are relevant for the Convention;
38. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with UN Agencies, in particular UN Environment, UNDP, UNESCO, UNECE and other Regional Economic Commissions of the UN, the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), MEAs such as UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD, CMS and others, and to report progress to the Standing Committee on a regular basis;
39. ENCOURAG Contracting Parties to indicate in their NDC's, options to create an enabling environment to safeguard and restore wetlands, and specify the policies and actions that will support this;
40. WELCOMES the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding with UN Environment to enhance collaboration on areas of common interest and REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee on the progress of the activities concerned;
41. REQUESTS the Secretariat to foster and enhance crosscutting subject matter expertise within the Secretariat team as a means to maximize use of existing resources and avoid duplication of efforts, foster a whole-of-Secretariat approach to providing equitable and consistent support to Parties' efforts to implement the Convention, and advance synergies and contributions across the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Concerning Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals

42. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working actively with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), as well as with other relevant United Nations agencies, on water-related indicators, and in particular indicator 6.6.1 on wetland extent, to contribute to its methodological development, to ensure that Ramsar National Reports, and more specifically on wetlands extent, are included as the main source of information and to avoid duplication of reporting at national level;
43. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to participate as appropriate in relevant international efforts to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, including the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the discussion of Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 and Targets 14.2 and 15.1 in international fora;

44. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support Contracting Parties as appropriate in raising the relevance of and mainstreaming wetlands and the Convention in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including *inter alia* through collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, International Organization Partners (IOPs) and partners in the public and private sectors for the development of guidance and tools, capacity building and identification of opportunities to access resources;
45. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to strengthen their mechanisms to enhance effective coordination among national and subnational statistical authorities responsible to report on Sustainable Development Goals and in particular those related to wetlands;
46. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to elevate the importance of wetlands and the Convention to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs and to strengthen mainstreaming efforts at national and subnational levels;
47. INVITES Parties to MEAs to consider further measures to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance cooperation, coordination and synergies amongst MEAs and other partners at the national level to enhance coherent national-level implementation of the Convention ;;

Concerning the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund

48. REQUESTS the Secretariat to present to Standing Committee 58, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of CBD Decision XII.30, elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities of the Convention, consistent with the mandates of the GEF, and to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the CBD at its 15th meeting, consistent with CBD Decision XIII/21.

Concerning the relationship with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the work of the Secretariat

49. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue working with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through the IUCN/Ramsar Liaison Group to support the operations of the Secretariat;

Concerning the Enhancement of the Implementation of the Convention

50. [REQUESTS the Standing Committee, at its first full meeting following each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to identify, with the support of the Secretariat, a limited set of urgent challenges to the wise use of wetlands, in the framework of the Ramsar Strategic Plan and the broader environmental agenda, to receive enhanced attention during the coming triennium; {Text provided by the Facilitation Working Group}} and
51. [FURTHER REQUESTS the Standing Committee to consider these urgent challenges during its meetings throughout the triennium, inviting external expert speakers to participate in and contribute to Contracting Parties' discussions as appropriate and subject to available resources, with a view to identifying potential solutions to these challenges and reflecting them in draft resolutions for consideration by the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties; {Text provided by the Facilitation Working Group}}

52. REQUESTS the Secretariat to: {Text provided by the Facilitation Working Group}
- a. review all previous resolutions and decisions, identifying those or parts of those, if any, that may no longer be valid or applicable, that contradict each other, or are otherwise inconsistent with current Ramsar practices, and at SC57 report its findings, including information on how it reached these conclusions (e.g. inter alia, that the work has been completed, superseded, is contradictory, or is incorporated elsewhere); and
 - b. develop, based on its findings and Parties' feedback to its SC57 report, recommendations for Parties at SC58 to consider a process for: retiring outdated resolutions and decisions; establishing a practice of retiring outdated or contradictory resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones; and preparing a consolidated list of resolutions and decisions, to be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties and on an as-needed basis following Standing Committees;
53. REQUESTS the Standing Committee, at its 57th session, to review the Secretariat's report on the validity of resolutions and decisions and provide feedback, and to consider the Secretariat's recommendations on this subject at its 58th session, with a view to include in a relevant resolution of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties the retirement of outdated resolutions and decisions and the establishment of a practice for the Convention to retire outdated resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones; {Text provided by the Facilitation Working Group}
54. REQUESTS the Secretariat to: {Text provided by the Facilitation Working Group}
- a. conduct a review of the Rules of Procedure, identifying text, if any, that may no longer be valid or applicable, is contradictory, is otherwise inconsistent with current Ramsar practices, and the Rules' applicability to subsidiary bodies including the Standing Committee, working groups, and Friends of the Chair groups and, at the 57th session of the Standing Committee (SC57), report its findings, including information on how it reached these conclusions; and
 - b. develop, as appropriate, based on its findings and Parties' feedback to its SC57 report, recommendations for Parties at the 58th session of the Standing Committee (SC58) to consider revisions that might be made to the Rules of Procedure in preparation for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
55. REQUESTS the Standing Committee, at its 57th session, to review the Secretariat's report on the Rules of Procedure and provide feedback, and to consider the Secretariat's recommendations on this subject at its 58th session and, as appropriate, consider revisions that might be made to the Rules of Procedure in preparation for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. {Text provided by the Facilitation Working Group}
56. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, to consider using written submissions from their National Administrative Authorities as a means to provide opportunities for fostering increased participation and representation of views of Contracting Parties and stakeholders in the work of the Convention.

57. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue its efforts to deploy appropriate cost-effective communication and other technologies as a means to foster the participation and representation of the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat, increase efficiencies, and reduce costs, AND
58. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to make Contracting Parties aware of the opportunities provided by these technologies to foster Convention-related capacity building and to support the efforts of the Convention bodies to enhance implementation of the Convention